



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

November 17, 2005

# News Release

## **NORTH DAKOTA MAN GETS 30 YEARS FOR PRODUCING, RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

*Sentence is added to a 20-year term he is already serving*

FARGO, N.D.—As a result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Michael Wade Stuckey of Finley, North Dakota, was sentenced to 30 years in prison today for producing and receiving child pornography.

Stuckey, 31, pleaded guilty on August 31, 2005, to producing video and digital images of himself engaging in various forms of sexual contact with a child who was approximately three years of age. An acquaintance of Stuckey's accidentally found the video images and reported it to the Steele County Sheriff's Department. A forensic exam of Stuckey's computer confirmed that he had also downloaded more than 600 images of other minor children in sexually explicit situations from the Internet. The incidents occurred between March 2001 and March 2004.

U.S. District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson sentenced Stuckey to 30 years' imprisonment to be followed by five years of supervised release. Stuckey was ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and to register as a sex offender. Stuckey's sentence will run consecutive to a 20-year state sentence he is already serving for gross sexual imposition.

"The length of this sentence speaks to the severity of this man's crime," said Michael Mach, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Grand Forks. "ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, and the victims of child sexual predators top that list."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brett Shasky, who prosecuted the case, said, "Individuals who sexually exploit innocent children in this manner deserve the harsh treatment provided by law. The defendant made a conscious decision to take this path in life and, with this sentence, he will not come to the end of that path for a very long time. Unfortunately, his innocent victims will likely be affected for a long time as well."

During the sentencing, Judge Erickson said that Stuckey's acts showed an "unusual depravity" as he ordered the maximum sentence allowed for the offenses.

The case was investigated by U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), The North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and the Steele County Sheriff's Department.

The investigation into Stuckey's crimes is part of a broader ICE initiative known as Operation Predator, an enforcement effort designed to protect children from sexual predators. Since Operation Predator was launched in July of 2003 ICE agents have arrested more than 6,300 individuals nationwide.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators, and any suspicious activity, through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator, partner at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*